



## The impact of heatwaves on workers[U+05F3] health and safety in Adelaide, South Australia

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### Abstract:

This study aims to investigate the impact of heatwaves on worker[U+05F3]s health and safety; to identify workers at higher risk of prevalent illnesses and injuries due to heatwaves; and to provide evidence for policy-makers and service providers. South Australian workers[U+05F3] compensation claims data for 2001-2010 were transformed into time series format, merged with meteorological data and analysed using generalized estimating equation (GEE) models. For total injury claims there was no significant difference detected between heatwave and non-heatwave periods. However, for outdoor industries, daily claims increased significantly by 6.2% during heatwaves. Over-represented in hot weather were male labourers and tradespersons aged ≥55 years, and those employed in 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' and 'electricity, gas and water'. Occupational burns, wounds, lacerations, and amputations as well as heat illnesses were significantly associated with heatwaves. Similarly, moving objects, contact with chemicals, and injuries related to environmental factors increased significantly during heatwaves, especially among middle-aged and older male workers. With the predicted increase of extremely hot weather, there is a need for relevant adaptation and prevention measures at both practice and policy levels for vulnerable work groups.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2014.04.042>

### Resource Description

#### Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Temperature

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

## **Geographic Feature:** ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

## **Geographic Location:** ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Australasia

## **Health Impact:** ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:** ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:** ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Workers

**Other Vulnerable Population:** Men

## **Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

## **Timescale:** ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:** ☒

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content